

PROPOSED AMENDED CLAIM 1**S/N 09/884,720****OUR FILE NO. 6096-01****EXAMINER RAM N. KACKAR**

1. A wafer boat for supporting silicon wafers, the wafer boat comprising:
a ceramic body having at least one wafer support structure sized to support a silicon wafer thereon;
a ceramic coating disposed on a surface of the wafer support structure, the ceramic coating having an impurity migration preventing thickness and a wafer contact surface, the wafer contact surface having a post coating surface finish;
wherein the post coating surface finish of the wafer contact surface is less than or substantially equal to 1 micron [substantially prevents slip in the silicon wafers].

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Please note that the underlined portion represents proposed added language, and the [bracketed] portion represents proposed deleted language to the above claim.

Dear Examiner Kackar;

I believe the above amended claim language properly distinguishes over US Pat. No. 6,093,644 to Inaba because Inaba only shows support for surface finishes of 3.2 or greater (see Table II, No. 11, and the Note below which states that: "No. 11 corresponds to the present invention").

Your comments on the above will be welcome.

Sincerely;

Stephen P. Scuderi